

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Brian Donlon et al.  
Appln. No. : Art Unit :  
Filed : Examiner :  
Title : Less Invasive Devices and Methods for Cardiac Valve Surgery

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September 15, 2003

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Brian S. Tomko

(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)



(Signature)

September 15, 2003

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.